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# NARRATIVES FROM THE WAR

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

Reports of the high prices of food continue to come from Austria and Germany. Green peas are selling at \$1.45 for about two pounds; young chickens, \$2.50 each; olive oil, \$10 a quart; butter, \$5 a pound; 3 pounds of meat for \$5. Milk is positively not to be had; for cream, an unappetizing liquid which was once skim milk, costs 60 cents a pint. There is no cheese, and potatoes are not to be had. It is pointed out that Germany is making no effort to relieve the sufferings of her people by sending some of her warships out with the U-boats to rescue the cargoes of food in the torpedoed ships, which are now sent to the bottom.

Dark days are coming to Berlin. Owing to the coal shortage and difficulties of transportation, an order has been issued restricting the lighting of stores, hotels and restaurants to one-fifth of the degree permitted normally.

Khaki clad young women, at first confined to the Red Cross section of the British Army, are now being employed in many departments, releasing men for service in the trenches. In the clerical work at the chief bases, they have largely displaced men. Six hundred young women carpenters are at work building army huts. Some units of women workers are housed in huts, others billeted in hotels. Each unit has its own supervisors and chaperones.

The Duke of Wellington, writing to his mother after the battle of Waterloo, thus describes the operations of the German legions, at that time allies of the British. "I can assure you that from the general of the Germans down to the smallest drummer boy in their legion, the earth never groaned with such a lot of murdering, infamous villains. They murdered, robbed and ill-treated the peasantry, wherever they went." Blücher was with difficulty restrained from plundering the Bank of France. The cruelty of the German soldiery is no new thing. Robert Southey, describing a visit to Belgium, after the battle at Waterloo, says, "You will be rejoiced to hear that the British are well spoken of, for their deportment in peace and war. It is far otherwise with the Prussians. Concerning them, there is but one opinion; of their brutality and intolerable insolence I have had but too many proofs."

After the battle of Messine over one-fourth of all the wounded were cleared from the Canadian aid stations. This meant great exertion for a long stretch of hours on the part of nurses and doctors. By far the greater number of casualties were from shell splinters. There were few bullet wounds from machine guns or rifles, and scarcely any from bayonets, except in the case of the German wounded. The last plans of the enemy for the defence of the ridge failed to work.

A French correspondent at the Flanders front says that Prince Rupprecht's troops entered the fight dejectedly and without spirit. Secret orders taken from the prisoners show that behind each section marches an officer whose duty it is to shoot the laggards. He is supported by two machine guns. The wounds of many of the German dead and the statements of prisoners prove that these guns were kept busy urging forward the waves of troops into the hell of the British fire. A Bavarian writing home said, "When the British mines exploded we thought hell had opened to receive us."

Digging trenches by hand has almost been discarded on the French front; a trench plow which works a hundred times as fast as a man with a shovel, now digs in after an advance.

Anton Lang, who took the part of Christ in the wonderful Oberammergau play, has been called to service in the Bavarian Army. Duke Maximilian promised when the plays were first produced, more than two hundred years ago, that no participant should endure any suffering from war. Succeeding rulers have kept this promise until the present time, when a word of honor is of no effect in Germany.

Excavating in the vicinity of the battered Hindenburg line, British soldiers struck the tooth of a mammoth. The skeleton of this prehistoric monster has been definitely located, and will be exhumed for preservation.

An American Legion of Honor has been formed in London to distinguish Americans, living or dead, who enlisted in the Allied armies before the United States entered the war. Women who undertook actual war work abroad will be included in an auxiliary membership. A golden badge with the American eagle and the Canadian beaver supporting George Washington's family crest, backed by the flags of the Allies, will be given to living officers and to the next of kin to those killed. The same badge in silver will be given to non-commissioned officers and men. A similar decoration will be given to women.